

Canine Certification Guide

The following paragraphs offer a roadmap for completing the process of canine certification in South Dakota. In order to be certified as a canine handler, you must first be a certified law enforcement officer or employee of the Department of Corrections. Please feel free to contact Law Enforcement Training at (605) 773-3584 if there are additional questions pertaining to this process.

- 1) Coordinate initial canine training with a trainer who is approved by the Law Enforcement Standards and Training Commission in accordance with Administrative Rule [2:01:13:06](#). There are currently two trainers in South Dakota who have met these criteria. Those trainers are:

Sgt John Lohr	Lt. Scott Sheldon
Sioux Falls PD	South Dakota Highway Patrol
605-367-7259	605-773-3105

If you have selected a trainer who is eligible for Commission approval but has not yet been not yet approved by the Commission, you must contact the Law Enforcement Training Administrator in writing and request the Commission consider your request to approve your canine trainer. Further information is available by contacting Law Enforcement Training at (605) 773-3584.

- 2) Upon successful completion of initial canine training, the prospective handler must complete the [application form](#) requesting certification. This form must be signed by the agency head and submitted to Law Enforcement Training. Upon receipt of the completed application form, the written test will be scheduled.

*Upon successful completion of the written test, a skills evaluation must be scheduled by the handler with a Commission approved evaluator. The approved trainers listed above are also Commission approved evaluators in accordance with Administrative Rule [2:01:13:07](#).

*If the handler does not successfully pass the written test, he/she may repeat the examination within 30 days. If unsuccessful, the handler must receive refresher training through their agency and provide documentation of the training to LET prior to additional testing. (Administrative Rule [2:01:13:16](#))

- 3) Upon successful completion of the written and skills evaluations, a certificate is issued to the canine team. The certification must be renewed annually. The canine handler should submit a renewal [application](#) to Law Enforcement Training and schedule and successfully complete a re-certification skills exam annually. The written exam must be successfully passed every two years. (Administrative Rule [2:01:13:05](#))